



Howard County Happenings *with Allan H. Kittleman*

January 2017

A Message from the County Executive



The start of the New Year offers a great opportunity for reflection and hope for a wonderful 2017.

Much has happened in my two years as County Executive. We overcame an inherited budget deficit, reorganized our Department of Community Resources and Services to offer a "no wrong door" approach, and focused on open government through initiatives like OPENHoward and town hall meetings. Through the challenges of a tornado, a record snowfall and the historic flood in Ellicott City, I have seen the resiliency and spirit that make Howard County great.

There is much progress to come in 2017 and beyond. A site off Route 1 in Jessup is being secured for a 13th high school. Gov. Larry Hogan is helping us fast track the expansion of Route 32. Fulfilling a personal goal of mine, the Harriet Tubman School will be transferred from the school system and transformed into a educational and cultural center. Planning is underway for a new Circuit Courthouse. The Howard County Nonprofit Center will open this Spring to offer coordinated services to those in need. A new library and 50+ Center will open in ElkrIDGE in 2018. Progress also continues on the development of Downtown Columbia and the revitalization of aging village centers.

I am proud and excited to serve as your County Executive. Here's to a prosperous and healthy 2017 for all.

Tax Credit Proposals Support Environment and Property Owners

Recently, I prefiled legislation with the County Council for tax credits in a handful of key areas. The first is an incentive offering \$100 rebates to homeowners who regularly pump out their [septic systems](#). Next, the [Livable Homes Tax Credit](#) would be expanded to a greater variety of projects and increased from 50 to 100 percent of eligible costs up to \$2,500 to help seniors make the improvements needed to be able to stay in their homes.



In addition, we have proposed the [tax credit for historic properties](#) be expanded to interior projects and processes streamlined that require preapproval from the Historic Preservation Commission. All of these proposals support and encourage residents to stay in Howard County and take pride in their community. Follow these measures, scheduled for a [vote on Feb. 6](#), on the County Council's website.

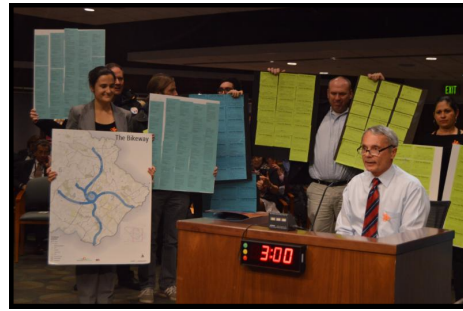


First Elhart E. Flurry Award presented MLK Day

In honor of MLK Day and the upcoming Black History Month, let us remember the hope and vision that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. offered us for peace, equality and tolerance. I presented the first Elhart E. Flurry Award in honor of this local civic leader at the [MLK Commission "I have a dream" Celebration](#) on Jan. 15 to David Steele, president of the Howard County branch of the NAACP between 2010 and 2016. David has worked tirelessly to promote tolerance and diversity in our community and bring us closer to #OneHoward!

FY18 Budget Process Underway

The annual budget season is here and I have already gathered significant feedback on budget priorities for Fiscal Year 2018. I held my [first budget hearing in December](#) and the next public hearing is scheduled for March 8 at 7 p.m. in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building. I will formally present the proposed budgets on April 19 and look forward to the Council's approval by May 25. I am committed to an open process and we will work hard to address the needs of our county residents and organizations.



Many residents support bike paths at first budget hearing



Courtesy Baltimore Sun

CB9-2017 Debate Continues

CB9 is currently the subject of passionate debate, as evidenced by the [recent public hearing](#). While I strongly believe in tolerance, diversity and everyone's right to reasoned opinions, I have said that this legislation provides a false sense of

security, compromises our ability to keep our community safe, and could jeopardize federal funding for critical programs and services. For these reasons, I will veto CB-9 should it pass the County Council. Please review [my detailed statement](#) on this legislation.

Agriculture Initiatives to be Announced at Ag Roundtable

Agriculture is an important part of our heritage and essential to our community and our economy. I will discuss plans to support the farming industry at an Agriculture Roundtable Meeting on Feb. 2 at 10 a.m. at the Howard County Fairgrounds. To participate, please [register](#).



Our focus is in four areas. We want to unify and better coordinate the various county agriculture programs, support projects that help our local farms remain viable and expand, educate the community about the needs and challenges of farming operations to increase community cooperation, and ensure that thoughtful, supportive legislation is in place.

Dates to Remember

January 28

Lunar New Year

January 29

[Children on Board Child Care and Preschool Fair](#) from 1 -4 p.m.

February 12

State of the County address at 6 p.m. at the George Howard Building

[HoCoWalks](#) will take a break in January and February. Please join us March 11 at 10 a.m. at the Robinson Nature Center for the first walk of 2017.

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